

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAR ES 02957 121734Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----110045 131046Z /21

R 120658Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9189

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SANA

S E C R E T DAR ES SALAAM 2957

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PIN, ET, SU, TZ

SUBJECT: NYERERE TO PROMOTE ETHIO-SUDANESE ACCORD ON
ERITREA AT OAU SUMMIT

REF: A) DAR ES SALAAM 2821, B) STATE 172468

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT NYERERE'S
HOPES (REF A) FOR PROGRESS
TOWARD SOLUTION ETHIOPIA-SUDAN PROBLEM AT KHARTOUM HAVE BEEN
DASHED BY HIS RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PARTIES. HOWEVER,
HE IS GRATEFUL FOR US RESPONSE TO HIS IDEAS (REF B) AND WILL
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BEIN TOUCHIF HE IS ABLE TO COME UP WITH ANYTHING PROMISING
ON THE SUBJECT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION AFTER NYERERE MEETING WITH GRAHAM
AND LOW JULY 11, I DREW ON REF B TO GIVE PRESIDENT OUR VIEWS
ON ETHIOPIA-SUDA SITUATION. NYERERE WAS PLEASED THAT USG
ASSESSMENT OF SOVIET POSITION WAS ESSENTIALLY SAME AS HIS.

3. HOWEVER, NYERERE SAID THAT HIS HOPES FOR PROGRESS (REF A) HAD BEEN PRETTY WELL DASHED. HE HAD LEARNED WITHIN PAST FEW DAYS THAT NIMEIRI, DESPITE HIS EARLIER COMPARISON TO NYERERE OF ERITREA WITH SOUTHERN SUDAN, WAS STILL INSISTING ON INDEPENDENCE AS A SELF-DETERMINATION OPTION FOR ERITREA. HE WAS AFRAID BOTH ERITREAN NATIONALIST ORGANIZATIONS, DESPITE BEIRUT STATEMENTS, ALSO FELT THE SAME WAY.

4. ADDITIONALLY, NYERERE HAD FOUND THAT MENGISTU WAS NOT GOING TO KHARTOUM. MENGISTU WAS, NYERERE UNDERSTOOD, STILL WILLING TO GO TO SIERRA LEONE, AND SOMETHING MIGHT EVENTUALLY COME OF THAT. HOWEVER, AT MOMENT AT LEAST NIMEIRI WAS NOT PREPARED TO GO TO SIERRA LEONE.

5. THESE FACTS, TOGETHER WITH DIFFERENT MEANINGS ATTACHED BY DIFFERENT PARTIES TO SUCH PHRASES AS "SELF-DETERMINATION", "AUTONOMY", AND "SEPARATE IDENTITY" MADE SITUATION VERY DISCOURAGING AND NYERERE NOW DOUBTED HE WOULD BE ABLE ACCOMPLISH MUCH AT KHARTOUM. (NYERERE ALSO NOTED THAT HE WISHED MENGISTU WOULD ACCEPT INDEPENDENCE, AT LEAST AS AN OPTION TO BE VOTED DOWN, BUT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE ETHIOPIAN LEADER WOULD DO SO UNTIL HE FELT MUCH MORE CONFIDENT OF HIS POSITION THAN HE NOW DOES.)

6. NYERERE WAS, HOWEVER, VERY GRATEFUL FOR USG RESPONSE,
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INCLUDING OUR WILLINGNESS TO TALK TO OUR ARAB FRIENDS ABOUT HIS IDEAS IF THE APPROPRIATE TIME CAME. HE WOULD KEEP US INFORMED.

7. COMMENT: PROSPECTS FOR CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORT AT KHARTOUM BY NYERERE NOW SEEM SMALL. HOWEVER, IN TERMS FUTURE COOPERATION ON THIS AND OTHER AFRICAN PROBLEMS, FRANK AND TRUSTING USG DIALOGUE WITH HIM REPRESENTS A GENUINE PLUS. MANY THANKS FOR DEPARTMENT'S AND EMBASSY ADDIS'S SUPPORT.

SPAIN

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